

Offensive Line Develops (Page 6)



75¢

# BEAR REPORT



A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

VOL. 1, NO. 2 JULY 29, 1976

PUBLISHED BY 55 ENTERPRISES, INC.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611





A Weekly Newspaper Devoted Exclusively  
To The Chicago Bears and The NFL.

VOL. 1, NO. 2

July 29, 1976

## ON THE COVER . . .

Linebacker Waymond Bryant (50) holds court during 1975 sideline action. Those involved are (r-l) Jim Osborne, Wally Chambers and Roger Stillwell. (Photo by Jim DuPree)



## . . . ON THE INSIDE

3 Doug Buffone's Column

4 & 5 College All-Star

Game ..... by Kevin Pates

6 Bears Offensive Line ..... by Kevin Lamb

7 Bear Briefs

8 Super Sports Quiz 2

and Game Picks ..... by the Superpickers

9 A Look at

Linda Buffone ..... by Fran Spielman

10 & 11 Bears vs Broncos:

Scouting Report

12 Finks on the

1976 Bears ..... by Greg Gordon

14 Bob Asher Retires

15 Training Camp Photos

16 Bears Defensive

Backs ..... by Don Pierson

17 NFL Pre-Season Schedule

18 Editor's Column and

Letters to the Editor

19 NFL Regular Season Schedule

Doug Buffone ..... President

Rich Royle ..... Vice-President, Printing

Fred Woods ..... Vice-President, Advertising

Bob Long ..... Secretary-Treasurer and

Advertising Representative

Kevin Pates ..... Managing Editor

Printed by  
Royle Publishing Co., Inc.

Bear Report is published 26 times a year including twice in July, weekly in August, September, October and November, four times in December and once in January, February and May.

General Offices: 112 Market Street, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin 53590. Second class postage pending at Sun Prairie, Wisconsin 53590. Advertising rates and subscription information from 500 North Michigan, Suite 700, Chicago, Illinois 60611, Phone 312/787-6955.

Editorial Offices: 1948 North Lincoln, Chicago, Illinois 60614. Phone 312/943-2438.

All rights reserved. No portion of this magazine may be reproduced without written consent of the publishers.

Not an official publication of the Chicago Bears.



Bear quarterback Virgil Carter held a quick meeting of his Lake Forest fan club following the team's first scrimmage July 17. Carter signed with Bears as a free agent in October of 1975 for his second tour in Chicago. He previously played with the Bears (1967-69) and the WFL Fire in 1974. (Photo by Bill Smith)

## bruiser. SPORTIPS by Hudson and Long

Featuring your new sports heroes "Lt'l Bruiser® and Pizza Mutt®."



© SCT, INC., 1976



# Doug Buffone



## Luck Not Part of Pro Football

I've heard it every year that I've been in the league. The fans say it, the media folks write it and broadcast it, but those that live it know better.

The elusive it I'm referring to is LUCK. It's always 'That lucky guy', or 'They get all the breaks'. But when you get right to the core of winning and losing — why one team has a consistent winning program and another doesn't — luck has relatively little real affect on the matter.

### Hard Work

It's the same in any profession: 'The harder you work, the luckier you get.' That is what I'm trying to follow as a motto for 1976.

There is just no way that someone can rely on 'luck' to help him in any career. Yet people give a great deal of credit to lady luck in so many situations.

If you look behind the scenes you will find that any good produced today is derived from honest hard work. Alright, so maybe it sounds corny or a little idealistic, but the work pays off.

### Never Hurt

One of the payoffs for me has been my relatively injury-free career. Going into the 1976 season I've played in 140 consecutive

games, but please don't say I've been lucky, I'd rather say I've worked hard to stay away from injuries.

The great teams of professional football — the Packers under Vince Lombardi, the Monsters of the Midway under Mr. Halas and the present Pittsburgh Steelers all exhibited a winning style, but the winning took time and dedication. Overnight success is something that just isn't realistic.

### Buffone's Law

I believe that there is a universal law which reads: 'The amount of effort that is put toward a particular goal will be returned in equal kind.' That is, the more you work, the more likely you are to succeed.

Sure I know it sounds simple, it sounds basic, but too many people fail to understand that it can work. But in attaining your goal you also must have the proper attitude.

Each year in looking toward the start of another football season, I ready myself by making a total commitment — I totally give of myself for the betterment of the team. You can't be selfish and hope for improvement; you need the help of your teammates, you need to work

together toward one goal.

### Bears — On The Way Back

It can work, you've seen it and I've seen it many times. With the right attitude and discipline you're more than halfway there.

And the attitude, properly cared for, stays with you throughout the year, even after the football season.

During the winter and spring I'll either be at Lake Forest College or the Irving Park YMCA to keep in shape. My weight training program and plenty of basketball help me to keep in shape and to maintain my competitive spirit.

That spirit is becoming more and more evident throughout the present Chicago Bear team. It's obviously going to be a tough road back for all of us on the squad.

But with a lot of hard work and its accompanying luck, we are on our way to becoming champions.

**Below is Fernando Esparza who already knows the meaning of working hard in order to achieve something that you want, please read on about this young man.**

## Scholarship Award to Esparza



Fernando Esparza receives his scholarship award from Chicago Mayor Richard Daley (center) and Bear Doug Buffone.

Chicago Bear fans made linebacker Doug Buffone their choice in the balloting for the Dodge-NFL Man of the Year last season. Because of that choice Dodge has established a \$1,000 scholarship in Buffone's name.

After the balloting it was the Board of Education's Scholarship Selection Committee's turn to make a choice. There were 119 highly qualified area high school graduates to be considered for the scholarship. Their choice was Fernando Esparrza, who lives at 2628 South Kedzie in Chicago.

The Farragut High School graduate ranked number one in a class of 300 students with a grade point average of 4.13. He was a member of the school's Senior Cabinet, swimming team and honor society.

He was also a member of the National Honor Society for three academic years, an Illinois State Scholar and he has won awards for achievements in algebra and geometry.

Esparza will use the grant to attend the Illinois Institute of Technology where he plans to major in electrical engineering.

The Dodge-NFL Man of the Year competition is coordinated by the Pro Football Hall of Fame and honors the outstanding 'citizen-athletes' of the National Football League. Candidates are named on the basis of their civic contributions as well as their athletic ability.

Fans throughout the nation voted during the 1975 season in selecting the individual club winners and a select media committee named the overall Dodge-NFL Man of the Year — Ken Anderson of the Cincinnati Bengals was given that award.

Altogether, \$39,000 in Dodge-NFL Man of the Year scholarships will be distributed in the 26 NFL cities. We at the Bear Report congratulate Chicago's winner, Fernando Esparza.

# Steelers Dominant in Shortened Rain Game

by Kevin Pates  
Bear Report Editor

If Noah's Ark had been available at Soldier Field last Friday night, the College All-Star football team would have wasted no time in climbing aboard.

As it turned out, there was no Ark at the park and no rescue for Ara Parseghian's All-Stars. A wild rain storm and the two-time defending world champion Pittsburgh Steelers combined to hand the collegians their 13th straight loss in the annual classic, this year by a 24-0 margin.

### The Flood

Ironically it was during the All-Stars' 13th possession of the evening when the game was abruptly terminated. At 10:49 p.m. CDT, and the All-Stars on the Steeler 34-yard line, high winds and a flooding rain began to drop one-half inch of water onto Soldier Field.

Within three minutes, both teams had returned to their respective lockerrooms and were replaced by hundreds of the 52,895 assembled multitude. World Championship Turf Sliding then became Chicago's newest sport craze and little could be done, or was attempted to be done, in clearing these soggy fans from the field of play.

### It's Over

Then, in an unprecedented decision, the All-Star game was officially called off at 11:01 p.m. — there was 1:22 remaining to be played in the third quarter.

The announcement read: "The 43rd Annual All-Star Game was terminated in the third quarter following a meeting between Commissioner Pete Rozelle and officials of Chicago Tribune Charities, Inc."

The decision was made because of the weather, dangerous field conditions and the risk of injury to both players and fans."

### All-Star Frustration

Little went right for the All-Stars through the nearly three quarters of action. Only once did the collegiate offense manage to get into Pittsburgh territory on its own. Top quarterbacks

Mike Kruczak (thigh contusion) and Craig Penrose (dislocated finger) were both out by the early minutes of the second quarter leaving only Jeb Blount (Tulsa) to direct the collegians.

Twice Steeler quarterback Terry Bradshaw was intercepted, with Steve Wagner's (Wisconsin) theft putting the All-Stars in their best position of the night, at the Pittsburgh 25-yard line. Three plays later Blount fumbled the ball away.

### Bear Rookies

The Chicago Bears' top two collegiate draft picks of 1976, wide receiver Brian Baschnagel and offensive tackle Dennis Lick, were both in the All-Star first unit. Yet, again, neither was given a fair test in their first local appearance as the All-Star offense continually stalled.

Only one pass all night was thrown in Baschnagel's direction (a 30-yard toss at midfield), but he was surrounded by Steelers and the overthrown aerial fell incomplete. Lick's presence became apparent late in the first quarter when the press box PA man announced that the former Wisconsin tackle was guilty of holding.

### Now at Camp

Both rookies reported to the Bears training camp the next day to begin belated drills at Lake Forest.

Each got in some work on that first day, although Baschnagel, for the time being, was on defense. Because the receiving looks deep at this point, the former Ohio State star will compete with the defensive backs.

Lick met many of the Bear defensive line for the first time, head-on, from his right tackle spot.

### Defense Tough

But back to the game and there were some bright moments for the All-Stars. In fact, the collegian defense looked impressive throughout the night. Only nine points could be registered by Pittsburgh in the first half on three Roy Gerela field goals.

The All-Stars outgained the Steelers on the ground during the opening 30 minutes — 32-30 yards. Linebacker Troy Archer (Colorado) with eight tackles and right tackle Dewey Selmon (Oklahoma) and back Aaron Kyle (Wyoming), with four tackles apiece in the first half, were outstanding. Middle linebacker Ed Simonini (Texas A&M) was also impressive.

### Frustration

The frustration of the All-Stars was best portrayed early in the third quarter. It was the first series of the second half for the collegians, who could advance the ball no further than their own 33 before running out of downs. On the punt attempt, center Ray Pinney (Washington) snapped the ball high over the head of punter Rick Engles (Tulsa) and into the end zone for a safety.

### Ara

After retiring from Notre Dame football, following the 1974 season, the return for coach Parseghian was not under the best of circumstances.

"We couldn't seem to execute the fundamental elements of the game," Parseghian said. "Maybe with a dry field we could have executed better. But I'm not taking anything from an outstanding Pittsburgh defense, though we contributed to some of that."

"Jeb Blount hung in there and for the time he worked with the team (in practice) he did a hellava job. The wind really came up in the third quarter and made our job increasingly difficult."

"It was unusual, a rarity. No, I have never been involved with a football game that was called because of weather."

"I guess I may have helped get it (fans on the field) going. I didn't want to waste two downs when the rain started, so I signaled the QB to call time out. By the time it was called, the thing was really going. The next thing I knew I looked to the South end and the place was flooded with people," Parseghian concluded.

Ara to Noah, Ara to Noah, get ready to cue the Ark.

### All-Star

### Game

### Statistics

are on  
next page.



Offensive tackle Dennis Lick (Wisconsin) fights off the charge of the Pittsburgh defensive line during All-Star action. Both Lick and Baschnagel (right side of page) are Chicago Bear rookies. (Photo by Bill Smith)



Wide receiver Brian Baschnagel (Ohio State) was an open target in this All-Star play, yet he was left waiting on an incompletely passed ball. (Photo by Bill Smith)



Hundreds of soggy fans poured onto Soldier Field during the rain-interrupted All-Star Game July 23. (Photos on this page by Bill Smith)

## College All-Star Stats

### FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Pittsburgh	All-Stars
Total First Downs .....	11	3
Rushing .....	5	1
Passing .....	6	2
Penalty .....	0	0
Total Net Yards.....	238	58
Offensive Plays.....	50	46
Avg. Per Play .....	4.8	1.3
Net Yds. Rushing .....	70	36
Rushing Plays.....	21	29
Avg. Per Rush.....	3.3	1.2
Net Yards Passing.....	168	22
Att.-Comp.-Int. ....	28-12-2	12-6-1
Avg. Per Pass.....	5.8	1.3
Punts-No. and Avg. ....	5-30.8	7-31.0
Total Return Ydg. ....	9.98	8-127
Penalties .....	5-40	5-26
Fumbles-Lost .....	1-0	6-3

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS LEADERS

RUSHING		Att.	Net	Avg.
Bleir .....		7	19	2.7
Harris .....		4	26	6.5
Harrison.....		3	11	3.7
Washington .....		11	27	2.5
Galbreath.....		6	19	3.2
Pruitt.....		3	7	2.3
PASSING		Att	Cmp	Yds
Bradshaw.....		26	11	174
Blount .....		12	6	59
RECEIVING		No		Yds
Grossman.....		4		46
Swann .....		2		29
Reamon .....		2		28
Washington .....		2		18
Griffin .....		2		6

### SCORING SUMMARY

Pittsburgh .....	3	6	15	—24
All-Stars.....	0	0	0	—0
Pitt - Gerela 29-yard fieldgoal.				
Pitt - Gerela 32-yard fieldgoal.				
Pitt - Gerela 23-yard fieldgoal.				
Pitt - Safety, center snaps ball into end zone.				
Pitt - Harris, 21-yard run (Gerela kick).				
Pitt - Reamon, 2-yard run (kick fail).				

Steeler quarterback Terry Bradshaw hands off here to running back Rocky Bleier (20).



Former Tulsa quarterback Jeb Blount executes a pitchout at Soldier Field.



# Kevin Lamb

- A Bear Report Regular -

## Offensive Line Eliminates Questions

Mark Nordquist carried his new 30-pound pride and joy and a wide grin. He would have showed off the addition to his family, but he couldn't find it. It was scattered around throughout his body.

"I get on the scale and it says I've gained 30 pounds," Nordquist said. His new buddy helped pad his 6-4 frame with 265 pounds of insulation, which he knew would withstand more pummeling from halfback hunters than the 235-pound 1975 model did.

"Otherwise, I don't feel any difference. I can even run faster. I had a weight program to put it on in the off-season, and I'll need the extra strength. There are a lot of linemen here this year."



Center Dan Neal at work, handing-off here to quarterback Gary Huff. The life of an offensive lineman is rarely recognized in media headlines. (Photo by Bill Smith)

### Fewer Bodies

The term "a lot of linemen" has taken on a new meaning at the Bears' Lake Forest training camp this summer. "Last year it was like a bus station, so many people were in and out," right tackle Jeff Sevy recalled.

Now there aren't so many bodies, but neither are there so many questions about whether the linemen can prevent ball carriers from falling on their own cleat marks. "There's just no comparison between our line this year and the guys we had last year," Coach Jack Pardee says.

Since running backs and quarterbacks have an uncanny way of improving when they line up behind talented giants, the change likely will not go unnoticed. General manager Jim Finks knew that when he made Ron Yary the league's first draft choice and a Viking cornerstone in 1968, and he hadn't forgotten it when he had a chance to draft Dennis Lick in the first round last spring.

### Cohesiveness

Even before drafting Lick, and then tackle Dan Jiggetts in the sixth round, Finks had said the Bears' strengths were their offensive and defensive lines. The problem last year was that

Sevy, left guard Noah Jackson and center Dan Peiffer were rookies (the first two making the league's all-rookie team) and Nordquist was a newcomer at right guard. So left tackle Lionel Antoine was the only Bear holdover of the starting unit.

"We didn't know what to expect from each other," Sevy said. "Now we all know what to do on certain plays, and we know what the other guys are going to do. We don't have to spend so much time teaching and we're more cohesive as a unit."

"To build a line, you've got to play together and develop that cohesiveness. You can make a great block, but it doesn't do any good if you don't know where the back's going or what the guy next to you is doing."

### Sevy to Move?

Since Lick was drafted as a right tackle, Sevy was expected to move to guard, his preference after playing there in his 1974 WFL season. But Bob Asher, whom Sevy beat out last year, retired last week and left the Bears with three tackles and four guards, not including Sevy.

For Sevy to play guard now, Pardee said Lick would have to show he can win the right tackle job and Jiggetts would have to show he can back up at right and left tackle. Neither is out of the question. Lick, the southwest sider from Wisconsin and St. Rita, was generally considered the best offensive lineman in the draft pool, and Jiggetts played some right guard at Harvard, so that side isn't foreign to him.

Sevy would be hard to keep out of the starting line-up, at whichever position. "He's the strongest lineman in the league," Asher said.

Among the other guards, Jackson's job seems the surest and Pardee likes second-year man Revie Sorey, the Illinois alum. He doesn't say much about Bob Newton, who helped Asher anchor Abe Gibron's lines.

Peiffer's the biggest center I've ever seen," Asher said, and the 6-3, 260-pounder's recovery from late-season knee surgery has been so complete that he didn't miss any early training camp drills. Dan Neal, who replaced Peiffer in

the last three 1975 games, can play any line position and is the team's long snap specialist.

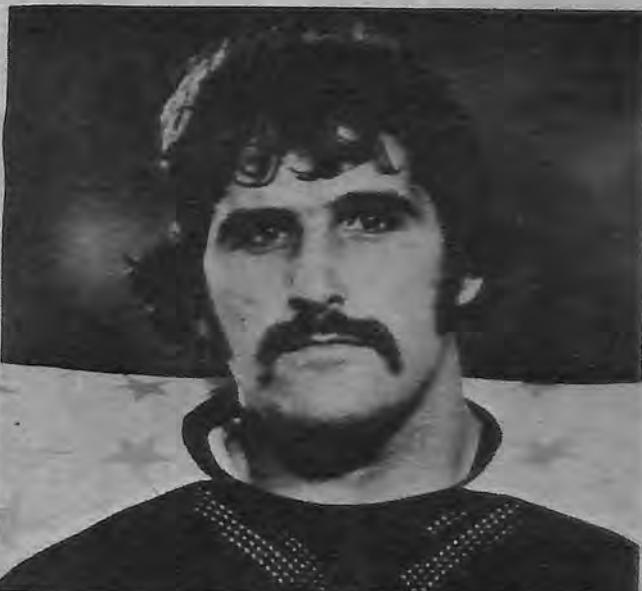
### Jiggetts Learning

Lick's two weeks in the college All-Star camp gave him a disadvantaged start because offensive line plays take longer to learn than any of the others. Jiggetts has found that out.

"I was spinning my wheels with all the different calls for awhile," Jiggetts said. "They're all starting to fit together now. I'm learning my scats from my scoops. Now I'm starting to polish, learn what everyone else does in the plays."

"The thing I've found most difficult here is keeping my speed and staying low. This game is played really low. They don't try to run over you up here, they use moves to go around."

**Kevin Lamb** is a sports writer for the Chicago Daily News.

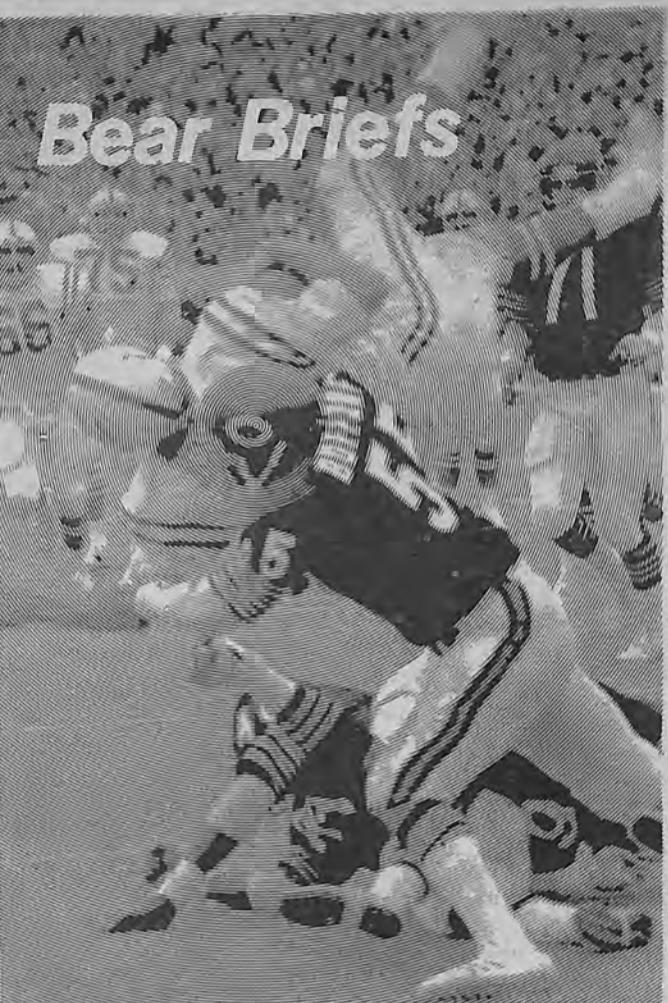


Rookie offensive tackle, Dennis Lick. (Photo by Bill Smith)



Tackle Jeff Sevy (75) directs traffic for back Mike Adamle (20). Sevy, a former WFL athlete, may also play some guard for the Bears in 1976. (Photo by Bill Smith)

## Bear Briefs



Ex-Bear players and coaches will be honored during the Chicago vs Atlanta Falcon game September 26 at Soldier Field. It will be the 40th such occasion that Bear alumni, graduates of Halas University, will have gathered for — the first such was held in 1937.

### Bears Lend Hand

Head coach Jack Pardee and running back Mike Adamle were on television quite a bit throughout Chicagoland in late June ... but the 1976 season was not the topic of conversation.

The two Bear representatives were seen in commercials which benefitted Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago and specifically parents of young cancer victims of the hospital.

All proceeds from the sale of the advertised Arctic Orange Shakes (during that late June period) have gone to finance the new Ronald McDonald House. The lodging facility will be located within walking distance of Children's Memorial hospital, where the families of children being treated for leukemia or other types of cancer can reside during treatment sessions.

Outpatient treatment with chemotherapy and radiotherapy, in addition to general testing brings about 160 children to the hospital each week. In many cases the children and their families have to travel long distances; and while the patient is being treated often brothers and

sisters and parents have had to sit in the hospital waiting rooms and corridors for many hours. The McDonald House will help to change this situation.

"The house will permit these parents to talk to one another," coach Pardee said. "That's important, because the parents who have been involved for a while can help the ones who have just received the news."

Pardee speaks from personal experience. "I am a cured cancer victim," he said. "I can remember when the doctor gave me the word. He had removed a mole from my arm and after the biopsy he told me that I had cancer and would have to undergo surgery in a week," he said.

Pardee had surgery, on his upper right arm, but came back to play two more years as a linebacker in the NFL.

The house will be owned and operated by the Children's Oncology Services of Illinois. The facility will be a ten-bedroom house in the neighborhood of Children's Memorial and the parents and families of the cancer patients will be able to stay there for \$5 a night.

Deficits in funding will be made up through personal donations and contributions, continued support of the Association of Chicagoland McDonald's Restaurants, promotional activities of the Chicago Bears and corporate and professional donations.

Any further donations to the McDonald House cause will be accepted through the Children's Oncology Services of Illinois, 120 South LaSalle St., Suite 851, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

### Week One Encouraging

The conclusion of the first week of double sessions (July 17) had coach Jack Pardee in the mood for comparison.

"We're so much better this year after our first few practices than we were a year ago ... there's really no comparison," he said. "The blocking of our entire line is very encouraging and that includes our tight ends."

"Sure it's true we haven't scrimmaged the Raiders, Vikings or any of the great defensive teams, but you can believe that we're better. Just how much better or what that improvement will mean in terms of wins, we can't tell yet," Pardee continued.

"Even the attitude of the team is better. There's enthusiasm and good concentration, so we're getting more accomplished with our practice time."

### Back To Help

In addition to a year's maturity for a team that last season rostered a league-leading 17 rookies, middle linebacker Don Rives (foot) and wide receiver Ron Shanklin (knee) appear ready to help their respective units.

After battling the scales for his first two NFL seasons as a converted 205-pound guard from Texas Tech, Rives saw just one quarter of 1975



STANDING ROOM ONLY . . . this is how things looked at Lake Forest College for the Bears' first full-scale scrimmage of the new season, on July 17. Over 3,500 fans showed up on the weather-perfect afternoon.

action before suffering a broken bone in his right foot.

The ensuing period of inactivity, while the bone was on the mend, may have been a blessing for Rives. He has added 30 pounds to his 1974 playing weight of 215. But at 245, Rives had looked and run like a tackle through the camp's indoctrination period.

Down to 235 now, he has sparkled with the first defensive unit during regular camp sessions.

### Ron's Back

Shanklin had surgery to correct cartilage damage in his left knee in December, after missing the entire 1975 regular season. The former all-Pro the Bears obtained in a trade with Pittsburgh last August couldn't run at full speed in that spring camp.

Now coaches have to control his practice time so that he doesn't overwork the knee too much, too early. Asked how he now feels Shanklin said: "I wouldn't miss this year for anything. You see what's happening, it's going to be fun to be a part of it."

### More Pardee Notes

"Ron (Shanklin) should be all right and ready to go full scale for the start of our regular season — all of his signs are positive. He should be testing his leg, in game competition, early in the exhibition season. Although he'll probably miss the first game.

"Muscle fatigue has caused a fluid build-up for Ron during our scrimmages. But as soon as that leg strengthens, then the fluid will decrease," coach Pardee said.

## INTRODUCING A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL!!



Subscribe Now-Only \$9.95

FOLLOW THE BEAR ACTION  
WITH THESE SPECIAL WEEKLY FEATURES

- Complete Photo Coverage
- Top Pro Football Columnists
- Complete Game Coverage
- Doug Buffone's Column
- Players' Family Feature
- Team Rosters
- Complete NFL Schedule
- Scouting Reports

Hurry!

First Issue Being Mailed July 22nd.  
MAIL IN YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TODAY!

Mail To:

Doug Buffone's Chicago Bear Report  
500 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



## The Superpickers

# Superpickers Go On Record in Pre-Season Slate

By Tim Sullivan, Randy Wievel,  
and Mike Haberman

on occasion.

Here are our selections for Week No 1 of the 1976 NFL pre-season:

**HOUSTON OVER KANSAS CITY** — For one thing, we don't think the Oilers will use very many of their stars. For another, we don't think Kansas City HAS any. Oilers by a bunch.

**SAN DIEGO OVER PHILADELPHIA** — We'll go with San Diego, especially if Randy Jones is pitching. Might have a shutout here. San Diego by 9.

**CHICAGO OVER DENVER** — The last time we picked Denver over the Bears, four guys carrying violin cases came over and pointed out our mistake. We admitted an error had been made and promised never to do it again. Chicago by 29.

**ATLANTA OVER WASHINGTON** — The Falcons should be formidable enough to squeeze over a touchdown or two, while the Redskins will use this contest to introduce all of their new old players to each other. Atlanta by 3.

**RAMS OVER TAMPA BAY** — This is John McKay's return to Los Angeles. After this scrimmage, which the Rams should win by 77 points, McKay might never leave the place.

**ST. LOUIS OVER NEW YORK JETS** — We're not even sure the Jets can field a team, since everyone played out their options. Besides, the Cardinals should have a healthy Bake McBride back again. Cards by 14 in nine innings.

**CLEVELAND VERSUS BALTIMORE** (in Lincoln, Nebraska) — Not an easy one to pick, but since this game's in Lincoln, Nebraska, we'll take the Cornhuskers by 3.

**GREEN BAY OVER CINCINNATI** — The fact

that Paul Brown left the Bengals shouldn't hurt all that much, but he went a little far by taking the playbook with him. Kenny Anderson telling Issac Curtis and Chip Myers to merely "run out for a long one" won't be enough to sack the Pack. Green Bay by 10.

**SAN FRANCISCO OVER SEATTLE** — We figure Seattle will move to Milwaukee next year. 49ers by 21.

**NEW ENGLAND OVER NEW YORK GIANTS**

— The Giants have improved themselves about 300% with the addition of Csonka and a whole new offensive line. The Patriots shouldn't beat them by more than 14.

**OAKLAND OVER DALLAS** — We'll take the Raiders, unless Dallas throws some last-minute bombs and Field Judge Armen Terzian is discovered wandering around in the secondary. Oakland, we would imagine, by 6.

**DETROIT OVER BUFFALO** — A dandy game, with the Lions probably winning on a forfeit as the Bills show up at Tiger Stadium instead of Pontiac.

**MINNESOTA OVER MIAMI** — The Vikings lost over 100 receptions when Marinaro (54) and Gilliam (50) both played out their options. Shouldn't matter much, since Paul Krausse and Bobby Bryant will catch enough passes to compensate for the migration. Vikings by 7.

**NEW ORLEANS OVER PITTSBURGH** — Picker Wievel is a long-time Philly fan and refuses to take Pittsburgh until the Pirates are mathematically eliminated, which should come around August 2. To keep harmony in our ranks, we gotta go with the Saints by 1.

## Super Sports Quiz No. 2

BY TIM SULLIVAN, RANDY WIEVEL,  
and MIKE HABERMAN

1. Emile Tunnell, Paul Krause, and Night Train Lane rank first, second, and third in career interceptions. Who is the fourth highest pass thief?

- a. Jake Scott
- b. George Plimpton
- c. Herb Adderley
- d. Dick LeBeau
- e. Bert Campaneris

2. Who is Russ Letlow?

- a. He organizes half-time bands for the Denver Broncos.
- b. He once blocked four punts against the Pittsburgh Steelers.
- c. He was the very first draft choice for the Green Bay Packers.
- d. He invented the relatively new "slingshot" goalpost.
- e. He is a starting linebacker for the San Diego Chargers.

3. When does the NFL conduct the official coin toss to determine which team kicks off and which one receives?

- a. Never. The home team always kicks off.
- b. Thirty minutes before the opening kickoff.
- c. Ten minutes after the start of the game.
- d. Three minutes before the opening kickoff.

e. There is no coin toss. This year the captains draw cards.

4. Who led the Chicago Bears in scoring last season?

- a. Walter Payton
- b. Bob Thomas
- c. Mike Ditka
- d. Bo Rather
- e. Rick Monday

5. Who had the longest touchdown run ever for the San Diego Chargers?

- a. Paul Lowe
- b. Keith Lincoln
- c. Willie McCovey
- d. Conrad Hilton
- e. Dick Post

6. Who is John Gilliam?

- a. A wide receiver for the Minnesota Vikings.
- b. A guard for the Seattle Supersonics.
- c. A wide receiver for the Atlanta Falcons.
- d. An ex-Steeler quarterback who went to the Saints.
- e. An ex-third baseman for the Dodgers.

7. Who had the longest run from scrimmage ever against the Baltimore Colts?

- a. Rick Casares

- b. Don Nottingham
- c. Jon Arnett
- d. Rocky Colavito
- e. Mike Strahan

8. Who scored the Steelers' final touchdown in their 28-10 AFC Divisional Playoff win over Baltimore last year?

- a. Rocky Bleier
- b. Jack Ham
- c. Andy Russell
- d. Rennie Stennett
- e. Mel Blount

9. Who leads Atlanta in career pass receptions as a Falcon?

- a. Jim Mitchell
- b. Al Jenkins
- c. Lou Hudson
- d. Walter Mondale
- e. Art Malone

10. Who led the Colts in pass receiving last year?

- a. Glenn Doughty
- b. Lydell Mitchell
- c. Franco Harris
- d. Raymond Chester
- e. Spiro Agnew

(Answers on Page 14)



## Fran Spielman

- A Bear Report Regular -

# Linda Buffone Meets Big Business

Linda Buffone has the glamorous good looks of a girl you'd expect to see boogying the night away at a downtown disco like the BBC. Blonde hair, blue eyes, great figure, terrific smile ... A real knockout.

But Linda Buffone admits she doesn't get there much — in spite of the fact that her husband Doug owns the place. She's too busy being the wife of the Bears' premier linebacker and the mother of his three kids. And, most recently, one of the two Missing Links.

"That's the official name of the jewelry business I started two months ago with Carol Douglass (wife of former Bears quarterback Bobby)," Linda said. "We picked the name because it was the catchiest one we could think of. But Doug always tells everyone the Missing Links are Carol and me."

When Bobby Douglass' prolonged Chicago Bear career ended with his abrupt trade to the San Diego Chargers at the beginning of the 1975 season, Carol Douglass stayed behind in the family's suburban Lake Forest home to hold down the fort with her three kids.

But without Bobby, things got pretty lonely for Carol Douglass. She remembered hearing about a home jewelry operation opened by a group of players wives on the West Coast. So she asked her friend Linda Buffone if she'd be interested in forming a Chicago chapter.

"I jumped at the chance," Linda said, her blue eyes sparkling almost as brightly as the diamond earrings she now sells. "I wasn't really aware of it at the time, but my life was pretty empty too."

"I'd come straight from a sheltered southern home life into a marriage at the naive age of 20, without ever really doing anything on my own," she said. "Sure I'm involved with my husband, my kids, and my home. But when you get down to it, you've got to accomplish something on



**Linda and Doug Buffone talk with Bear Report's Fran Spielman at Doug's Sweetwater Restaurant (formerly Mr. Kelly's).**

your own before you can feel like your own person."

And for Linda Buffone, the Missing Links provided the missing link.

"It's really important for football wives, or the wives of any busy guy to fill their own lives with

things they like to do," Linda said. "Otherwise, you find yourself sitting by the door or the phone, waiting for him to come home, and becoming more and more upset, the longer he stays away."

"The first few years of our marriage, I found myself saying, 'Gee, I can't wait until the season ends, so Doug will be home more,'" Linda said. "Then, when the season ended, I found myself saying, 'Gee, I can't wait until the season starts again, so Doug will be home more.'

"It finally dawned on me that I'm plain and simply married to a guy who enjoys an active life. And whether it's football during the season, or the restaurants during the off-season, Doug Buffone is going to stay busy, no matter what he's doing."

And, now that she's found the missing link, Linda Buffone is going to stay busy, too.

But, for a girl whose only prior experience in financial management was spending her weekly allowance as a kid, it wasn't all that simple.

"It was kind of like the blind leading the blind," Linda said. "Carol went to the bank, and I went to Doug, because neither of us had the initial capital we needed to get the business started. And after that, the next problem was deciding on the proper quality and selection of merchandise to carry."

With a little advice from some of those West Coast wives who began the home jewelry

operation a few years ago, and a lot of plundering through on their own, the Missing Links were finally ready to open up shop.

And, not long after that, Linda Buffone had enough money to go back to "the bank" to pay off her loan.

"The whole thing works by word of mouth, with no more than about ten people at each home showing," Linda said. "But somehow, the thing took off like wildfire. I guess women simply love jewelry. And turning buying it into a social event makes it that much more appealing."

And, faster than you can say "Missing Links", Linda Buffone and Carol Douglass had taken in a whopping ten thousand dollars gross earnings in their first six weeks of business.

"It's almost like a joke with us now," Linda said. "I pay Doug the money, and he deposits it right back into our joint account. But, no matter what he does with it, it's really important to me to pay back every penny that I borrowed."

"He takes care of his business," Linda said, "and I want to make sure that I take care of mine. I can't really explain why it's so important. I guess it clears my head, gives me another dimension, and basically just improves my sense of ME."

Maybe Doug Buffone wasn't that far off the mark, when he joked about his wife and her new business interest. Linda Buffone may not be THE missing link. But as far as her goal toward a happy, well-rounded life, she certainly has found it.



**Linda Buffone**

**Fran Spielman is a news and sports reporter for Chicago's WIND Radio.**

## Numerically Bears

No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Age	Yr	College
7	Avellini, Bob	QB	6-2	212	23	2	Maryland
11	Carter, Virg.	QB	6-1	185	30	7	Brigham Young
14	Tagge, Jerry	QB	6-2	220	26	4	Nebraska
15	Danmeier, Rick	K	5-11	214	24	1	Sioux Falls College
16	Thomas, Bob	K	5-10	182	24	2	Notre Dame
17	Beckman, Witt	WR	6-3	200	24	R	Miami (Fla.)
19	Huff, Gary	QB	6-1	194	25	4	Florida State
20	Adamle, Mike	RB	5-9	199	26	6	Northwestern
22	Musso, Johnny	RB	5-11	205	26	2	Alabama
23	Evans, Gary	CB	6-0	181	21	R	Northeast Missouri
24	Livers, Virgil	CB-KR	5-8	178	24	2	Western Kentucky
25	Shanklin, Ron	WR	6-1	180	28	7	North Texas State
27	Grim, Bob	WR	6-0	183	31	10	Oregon State
30	O'Leary, John	RB	6-0	207	22	R	Nebraska
31	Knox, Bill	S	5-9	193	25	3	Purdue
32	Perry, Vernon	S	6-2	202	22	R	Jackson State
34	Payton, Walter	RB-P	5-10	211	22	2	Jackson State
35	Harper, Roland	RB	5-11	201	23	2	Louisiana Tech
36	Donchez, Tom	RB	6-2	216	24	2	Penn State
37	Rhodes, Wayne	CB	6-1	180	22	R	Alabama
38	Henson, Champ	RB	6-3	240	23	2	Ohio State
39	Studer, Steve	C	6-1	240	23	R	Bowling Green
43	Clemons, Craig	S	5-11	195	27	5	Iowa
44	Plank, Doug	S	5-11	197	23	2	Ohio State
45	Morgan, Mike	S	6-1	190	22	R	Washburn (Kan.)
46	Malham, Mickey	LB	6-2	210	23	R	Arkansas State
47	Baschnagel, Brian	WR	6-0	192	22	R	Ohio State
48	Ellis, Allan	CB	5-10	184	25	4	UCLA
49	Kasowski, Dale	RB	6-2	208	22	R	North Dakota
50	Bryant, Waymond	LB	6-3	232	24	3	Tennessee State
51	Neal, Dan	C	6-4	240	27	4	Kentucky
52	Cousino, Brad	LB	6-0	219	23	2	Miami (Ohio)
53	Peiffer, Dan	C	6-3	252	25	2	Southeast Missouri
54	Hicks, Tom	LB	6-4	237	23	1	Illinois
55	Buffone, Doug	LB	6-2	226	32	11	Louisville
57	Rives, Don	LB	6-2	235	25	3	Texas Tech
59	Gersbach, Carl	LB	6-1	230	29	7	West Chester State
60	Chambers, Wally	DT	6-6	260	25	4	Eastern Kentucky
62	Jiggetts, Dan	T	6-4	256	22	R	Harvard
63	Nordquist, Mark	G-C	6-4	236	30	9	Pacific
65	Jackson, Noah	G	6-2	263	25	2	Tampa
68	Osborne, Jim	DT	6-3	254	27	5	Southern
69	Sorey, Revie	G	6-2	260	22	2	Illinois
70	Lick, Dennis	T	6-3	256	22	R	Wisconsin
71	Stillwell, Roger	DT	6-5	256	24	2	Stanford
72	Hrivnak, Gary	DE	6-5	254	25	4	Purdue
73	Hartenstine, Mike	DE	6-3	247	23	2	Penn State
75	Sevy, Jeff	T	6-5	259	25	2	California
76	Rydalch, Ron	DT	6-4	260	24	2	Utah
78	Newton, Bob	G	6-4	260	27	5	Nebraska
79	Antoine, Lionel	T	6-6	258	26	5	Southern Illinois
80	Raiher, Bo	WR	6-1	183	25	4	Michigan
81	Butler, Gary	TE	6-3	235	25	4	Rice
82	Berry, Royce	DE	6-3	250	30	8	Houston
83	Parker, Ron	TE	6-2	213	22	R	TCU
84	Harris, Richard	DE	6-5	258	28	6	Grambling
85	Schubert, Steve	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Massachusetts
86	Parsons, Bob	TE-P	6-5	234	26	5	Penn State
88	Latta, Greg	TE	6-3	226	23	2	Morgan State
89	Andersen, Norm	WR	5-11	164	23	R	UCLA
90	Hoban, Bill	DE	6-4	236	23	R	Michigan
91	Hovey, Jim	LB	6-4	222	23	1	Kentucky
94	Meyers, Jerry	DT	6-4	245	22	R	Northern Illinois
95	Moore, Ivy	WR	6-3	187	23	R	Southern Illinois
96	Muckensturm, Jerry	LB	6-4	220	22	R	Arkansas State
98	Tryon, Jeff	CB	6-1	185	22	R	Boise State

## SPECIALISTS BRONCOS

**Punters:** 42 B. Van Heusen  
**Placekickers:** 15 J. Turner,  
                   12 M. Franckowiak, 31 L. Perrin  
**Holders:** 42 B. Van Heusen, 16 J. Hufnagel  
**Kick Centers:** 50 B. Maples, 52 K. Muhlbeier  
**Punt Returns:** 36 B. Thompson,  
                   80 R. Upchurch, 81 J. Schultz  
**Kickoff Returns:** 80 R. Upchurch,  
                   30 O. Ross, 28 W. Wingard

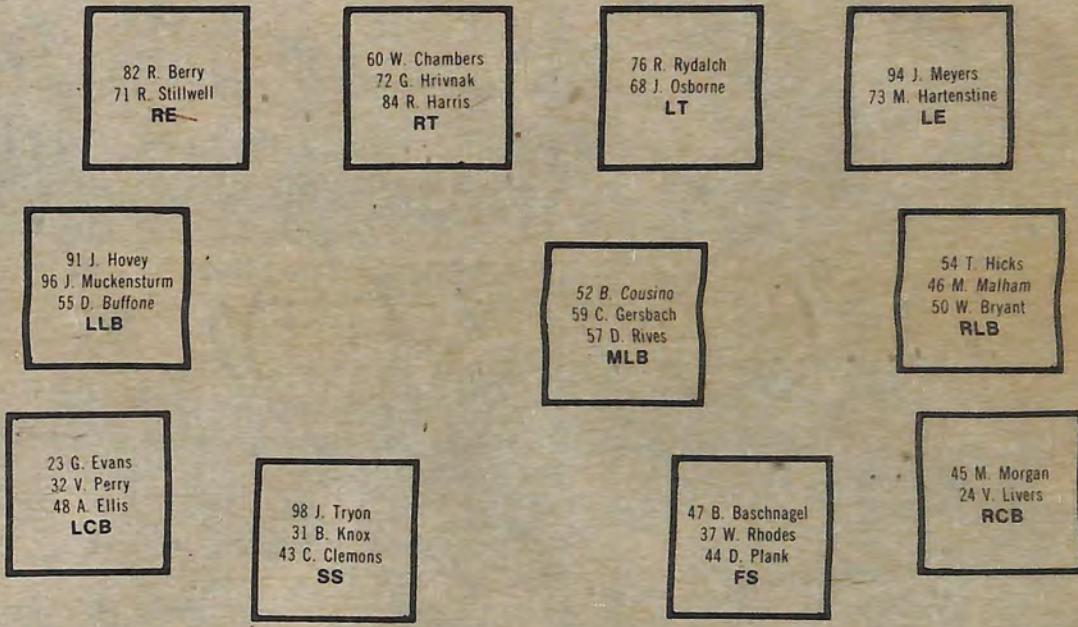
## BEARS

**Punters:** 86 B. Parsons, 34 W. Payton  
**Placekickers:** 16 B. Thomas, 15 R. DanMeier  
**Holders:** 9 V. Carter, 19 G. Huff  
**Punt Returns:** 24 V. Livers, 47 B. Baschnagel  
**Kickoff Returns:** 34 W. Payton, 47 B. Baschnagel  
**Punt Centers:** 51 D. Neal, 53 D. Peiffer  
**Kick Center:** 51 D. Neal, 53 D. Peiffer

## Broncos Offense



## Bears Defense



## Broncos

No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Age	Yr	College
10	Steve Ramsey	QB	6-2	210	28	7	North Texas St.
13	Wilbur Summers	K-P	6-4	220	22	R	Louisville
14	Norris Weese	QB	6-1	195	25	1	Mississippi
15	Jim Turner	K	6-2	205	35	13	Utah St.
16	John Hufnagel	QB	6-1	194	26	3	Penn St.
20	Louis Wright	CB	6-2	195	23	2	San Jose St.
21	Randy Polti	S	6-3	190	24	3	Stanford
22	Fran Lynch	RB	6-1	205	31	10	Hofstra
23	Jim Kiick	RB	5-11	215	30	7	Wyoming
24	Otis Armstrong	RB	5-10	196	26	3	Purdue
25	Haven Moses	WR	6-2	208	30	9	San Diego St.
26	Calvin Jones	CB	5-7	169	25	4	Washington
28	James Betterson	RB	5-11	198	22	R	New North Carolina
30	Oliver Ross	RB	6-0	210	27	4	Alabama A&M
31	Mike Franckowiak	RB	6-3	220	23	2	Central Michigan
32	Jon Keyworth	RB	6-3	230	26	3	Colorado
33	Chris Pane	DB	5-11	181	23	R	New Mexico
34	Rick Volk	S	6-3	195	31	9	Michigan
35	Lonnie Perrin	RB	6-1	222	24	R	Illinois
36	Bill Thompson	S	6-1	200	30	8	Maryland St.
37	Randy Rich	DB	5-10	181	23	R	New Mexico
41	Mike Dunafon	WR	6-0	211	22	R	Northern Colorado
42	Bill Van Heusen	WR/P	6-1	200	30	9	Maryland
43	Steve Foley	S	5-11	181	23	R	Tulane
45	Earlie Thomas	CB	6-1	190	31	7	Colorado St.
46	John Rowser	CB	6-1	190	32	10	Michigan
47	John Schultz	WR	5-10	182	23	R	Maryland
48	Tommy Harris	DB	6-2	190	22	R	Arkansas
50	Bob Maples	C	6-3	250	34	12	Baylor
51	Bob Swenson	LB	6-3	220	23	2	California
52</td							

# Pre-Season 1976 - Game 1

## Chicago Bears at Denver Broncos

**July 31, 1976 7:00 p.m. CDT**

**Mile High Stadium, Denver, Colo.**

For the eighth time in nine years Chicago will begin its pre-season someplace other than home. Denver's Mile High Stadium is the site of the 1976 Bear opener, against the Broncos. Game time is 8 p.m. on Saturday.

Coach John Ralston's team helped to inaugurate the new season in the Hall of Fame Game, July 24, against Detroit in Canton, Ohio. The Bronco camp had opened July 12, same as the Bears, which left only two weeks of preparation for the Lions. The Broncos have been working out on the Colorado State University campus. It marked the Club's return to its home state after a four-year stay in Pomona, California for pre-season camp.

The center of attraction in the Denver camp has been the quarterback position. Charley Johnson has retired and veteran Steve Ramsey has been the leading candidate for the job. Last

season, Ramsey was the team's leader in passing yards (1,562), touchdowns passing (9) and passing percentage (128-233, 54.9). Ramsey, a North Texas State grad, is starting his eighth year in professional football.

Ramsey has had plenty of competition with John Hufnagel, Norris Weese, Mike Franckowiak and rookie Craig Penrose (San Diego State). Franckowiak, drafted a year ago, played last season as a running back. Penrose was a member of the College All-Star team a week ago.

Other veterans who joined the Bronco camp early this season included guard Carl Schaukowitch and defensive end Charlie Smith, who both finished last season on the injured reserve list; also running back Alfred Haywood and John Tarver. Haywood finished

the 1975 season with the Broncos but saw only special team duty, while Tarver was signed as a free agent after last season.

Denver's first round draft choice, guard Tom Glassic, had also been chosen for the College All-Star game.

Prior to camp opening, Denver had signed 12 of its 15 draft choices. That left safety Kurt Knoff, Penrose and center Jim Czirr as the only unsigned draftees.

Ralston ended his fourth year as Denver's head coach, with a 6-8 overall record. Five of the six games were won at home; two losses (to Miami and Cincinnati) came by just a single point each.

Running back Jon Keyworth led the Broncos in both rushing and receiving for 1975. He carried 182 times for 725 yards and three touchdowns; and caught 42 passes for 314 yards and one touchdown.

Otis Armstrong, who carried the ball only 31 times last year, has apparently fully recovered from the hamstring problem that sidelined him for ten games last season. In 1974 Armstrong was the NFL's leading rusher.

About the Bears' game Ralston said: "We will lead with our veteran line-up and probably use them well into the second quarter of the game. Then we'll substitute liberally, taking the opportunity to get a look at most of our younger players in a game condition. The 'younger players' include some names familiar to NFL fans, including running back Jim Kiick, who is bidding for a Bronco roster spot. Tackle Claudie Minor will open on the right side of the offensive line, with veteran Marv Montgomery reclaiming his left tackle spot he held prior to receiving a severely broken leg which sidelined him in late 1973."

Another important offensive battle going on is among the receivers, where second year pros Rick Upchurch and Jack Doblin are pressing veterans Haven Moses and Bill Van Heusen for starting jobs.

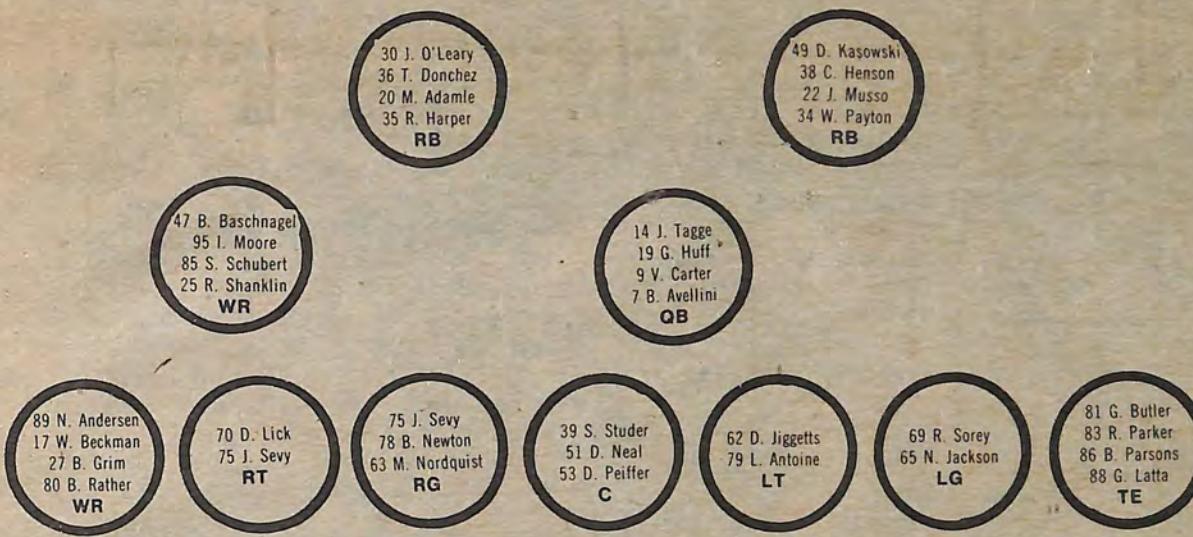
Defensively, the front four will be Barney Chavous, Paul Smith, Lyle Alzado and either John Grant or Rubin Carter. The linebackers will be Randy Gradishar, Tom Jackson and Joe Rizzo, while the starting secondary will include Louis Wright and Calvin Jones at the corners and Bill Thompson and John Rowser at the safeties.

Punter Bill Van Heusen and kicker Jim Turner are both ready to play, yet the Bronco's 15th round draft pick from Louisville (Wilbur Summers) may see some action at both position.

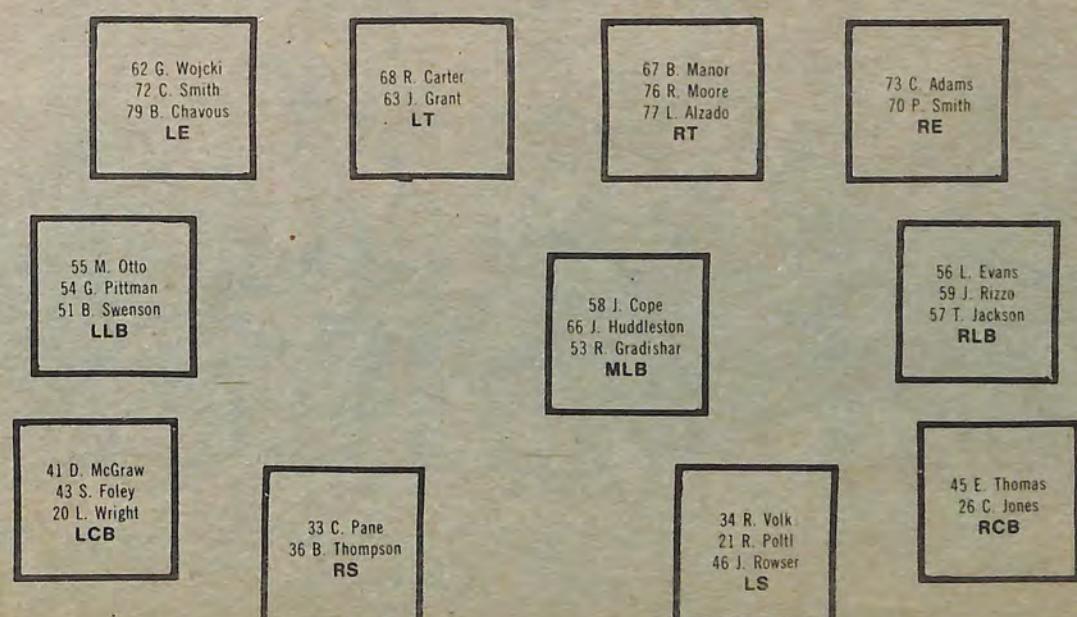
Saturday's game will be an official function of the Colorado Centennial-Bicentennial Commission. Sunday is the official 100th birthday of the State of Colorado. Special pre-game and halftime activities have been planned, including the Broncos giving away a new '76 Dodge Dart.

The Bears and the Broncos have met only five times before, with Chicago holding a 3-2 series edge. Last year the two teams met at Soldier Field in a pre-season meeting, the Broncos handed the Bears their only shutout defeat of the entire year 13-0. In their last regular season confrontation, the Bears won a 33-14 decision in Denver.

## Bear Offense



## Broncos Defense





# Greg Gordon

- A Bear Report Regular -

## Finks Hopes to Stand Pat in 1976

With the courage of a riverboat gambler, Jim Finks shuffled and reshuffled the Bears' roster in an attempt to build a winner in 1975, his first full season as general manager.

This season he says he will stand pat.

When Bear fans converge on wind-swept Soldier Field, Finks says they will see the "nucleus" of a Super Bowl contender — even at the quarterback position.

"If we can just leave this nucleus alone, obviously add to it in the next couple of years, and

to a long list of established veterans.

By December, the Bears had only 16 players left from the 52 on their pre-training camp roster.

"We didn't have a nucleus last year," Finks said. "We thought going into camp that we would have a pretty good nucleus of guys who had played three or four years. We didn't have it."

"We went through a very difficult season in 1975. But we just did what we had to do, and it was virtually to start all over. We ended up with 17 rookies on our team, the youngest team in the NFL, and we paid the price for it and it's not going to be much easier this year."

But, Finks said, "If we can retain the players that we have on our squad this year and get the kind of improvement out of them that we can expect after the 1976 season, I think we'll be able to see some daylight at the end of the road. It will just be having the courage to make some decisions and living with them and let the other things take care of themselves."

One of Finks' chief concerns is the demise of the National Football League's Rozelle Rule, which was struck down by a federal court judge.

"All of the rules that exist or did exist in the National Football League were put in for the sole purpose of having competitive balance, allowing the teams that had been unsuccessful, to get their share of good football players and become competitive," Finks explained. "That starts with the college draft, the waiver system, the ability to trade players and the ability to control players to a certain extent."

The control came under the Rozelle Rule, which prevented a player from playing out his option and signing with another team without his new team giving due compensation to the team he left, usually in the form of a player or players of equal value.

"We feel that unless we can get some sort of a replacement or a substitute for the Rozelle Rule — which has to be bargained collectively with the players — it would be very difficult for anybody to forecast how long it's going to take anybody to build a winner," Finks said.

"Without a Rozelle Rule, or some form of compensation, we might find ourselves confronted

with the loss of two or three very key players, because they might take the attitude, 'Well, we haven't been to the playoffs the four years that I've been here, and I want to go where I know I'm going to be in the playoff.'

"What would happen if two years from now, just when we think we're getting ready to make our move, Wally Chambers, Bob Avellini and Craig Clemons all decided they were going to go somewhere else? That is the thing that bothers us."

Then again, Finks and Pardee could have a winner by 1978 themselves, and maybe signing top stars from other teams who want to jump to a playoff contender.

Finks doubts that. He says the Bears' club he took over in late 1974 was "by a long shot" behind the three-year-old Vikings expansion franchise he took over in 1964. It took five years for Finks to build a consistent winner at Minnesota.

Striking a note of optimism, he said last season the Bears "became stable even after some very rough weeks where we were embarrassed. They never quit and at the end of the year they were a better team than they were at the first of the year."

"It's going to be interesting to see how we take off this year. Are we going to be where we were last year, or are we going to be up a notch?"

Some new faces will appear on the squad this year, because Finks said at least 10 players made the team last season "only because our roster was 43." But he says the "big, big turnover is over."

He won't prognosticate about wins and losses, but says as phase II for building a winner, "I'd like us to be in more games this year than we were in last year — and maybe win a few more than last year."

**Greg Gordon is a writer for United Press International in Chicago.**

**WALTHAM  
WATCHES**

**3:48**

**Soldier Field**  
chicago park district

**4:22** OFFICIAL TIME  
**WALTHAM**

**BEARS**

**25**

**down  
11 yds to go  
yard line**

**LIONS**

**21**

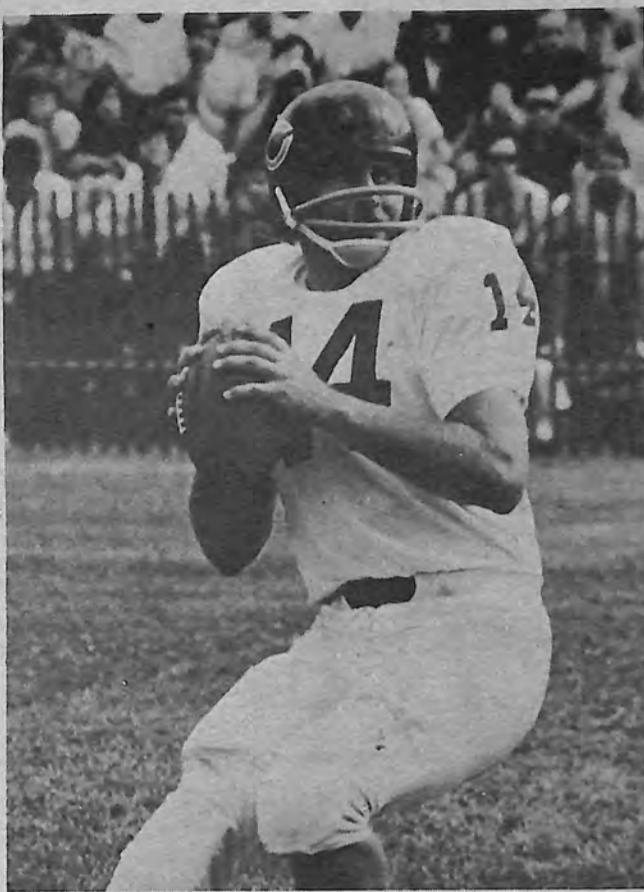
NOW, DENTAL COVERAGE



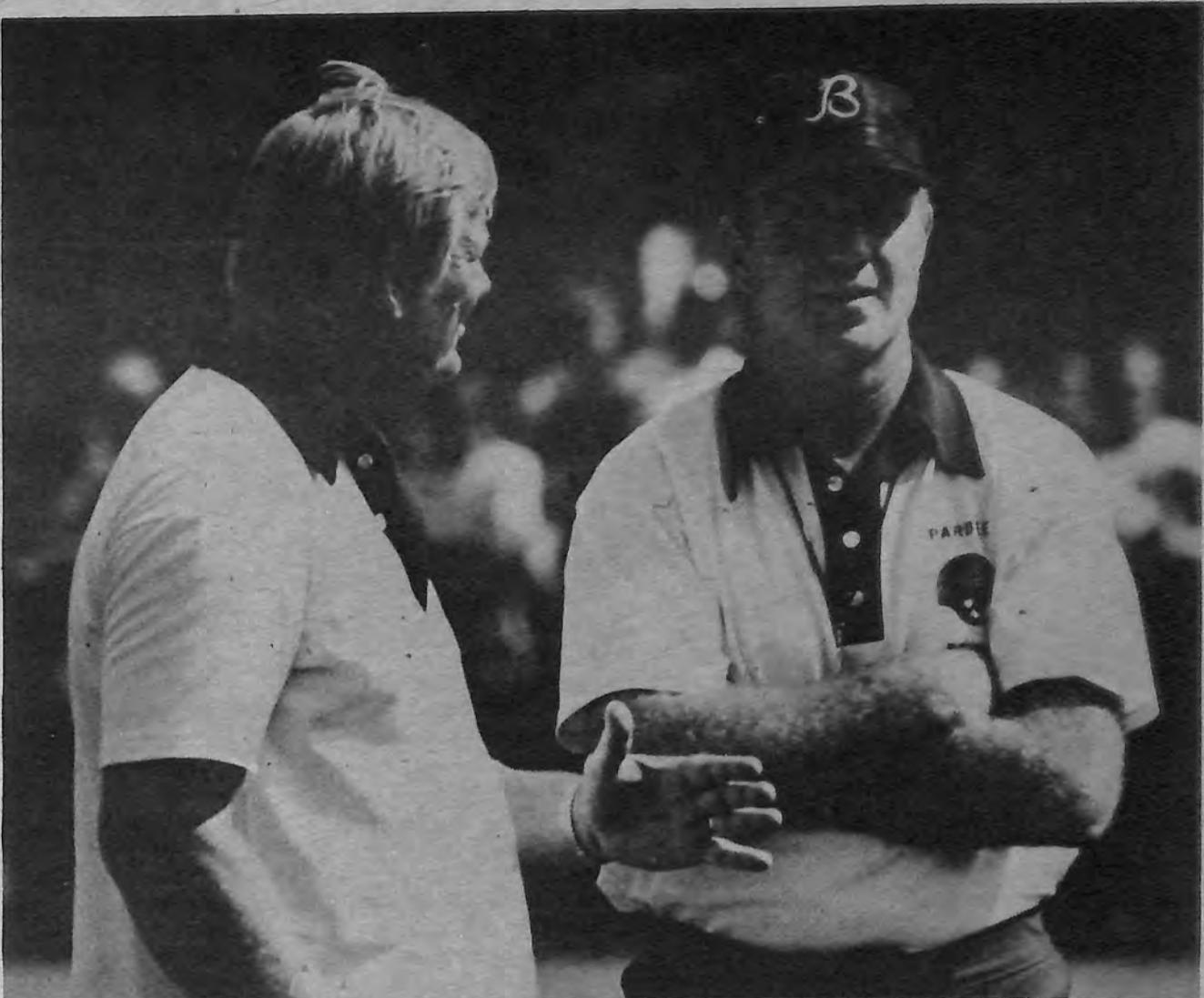
**DADDY BOY**

**TEXACO**

Finks looks to happier days for the Bears ... much like last year's game number 12 ... a 25-21 home win over the Detroit Lions



Going back to set-up is one of the new faces in the 1976 Bear Camp, quarterback Jerry Tagge. He was the second round draft choice of the Green Bay Packers in 1972. Tagge has also played in the WFL.



Linebacker Talk . . . these two former NFL linebackers have a strategy session during the scrimmage. Bear head coach Jack Pardee (right) played 15 seasons in pro ball, while defensive line coach Brad Ecklund played six of his own.

Photos by

Bill Smith

## Scrimmage

Here are a few glimpses of the Chicago Bears hard at work during a pre-season scrimmage session (July 17). The object of all the work is to comprehend the football basics being taught and to regain the physical shape that was abandoned by most players last December.



Runningback Johnny Musso (22) finds a hole big enough to drive just about anything through on this play; his thanks go to the usually seldom-recognized offensive line.



Loneliness of the Long Distance Kicker . . . Thinking things over is Chicago's second-year man from Notre Dame, kicker Bob Thomas.



Bob Asher taking a pause that refreshes during the Bears' first week of training camp. The six-year professional decided last week that his NFL durability had run out and thus it was time to depart the football scene. Asher, a right tackle, is a former all-American from Vanderbilt. (Photo by Bill Smith)

## Asher Concludes Pro Career

Lake Forest — Six-year veteran Bob Asher, a regular at right tackle during Abe Gibron's three seasons as coach of the Chicago Bears, retired from football on July 20. Asher announced his retirement 30 minutes before the Bears were to start their second practice of the day.

A former All-American from Vanderbilt, Asher said the main reasons for his decision to leave the game were physical:

"My legs are gone. They're dead. I've been feeling pain in my neck and back. It was painful to play and I was always fatigued," the 6-6, 263 pound Asher told the Bear press corps.

"It has been getting harder to get ready to play. Last year I had muscle problems in both legs, bone spurs in the elbows, and the neck and back problems. The intensity of hitting big people finally caught up with me. It all added up.

"You have to be big, strong and durable to play this game ... and now I'm not durable enough. When you play with the intensity that's required, you better be durable."

Asher came to the Bears in August of 1972 in a trade with the Dallas Cowboys. As a rookie in 1970, Asher went to the Super Bowl with Dallas backing up Rayfield Wright. In '71, he did not play because of knee surgery.

Asher included that trip to the Super Bowl with his top moments in football along with becoming an NFL regular with the Bears.

He lost his regular's spot to rookie Jeff Sevy last season.

Bear general manager Jim Finks said he was hoping Asher would get over the physical problems which plagued him in '75.

"We had hoped that Bob would regain his 1974 form but he couldn't."

Head coach Jack Pardee offered Asher his "personal best wishes for success. The team is going to miss him."

Asher said he will balance several job possibilities in the Chicago area against returning to graduate school. He holds a B.A. in mathematics from Vanderbilt.

### ANSWERS TO SUPER SPORTS QUIZ NUMBER TWO

1. d — Dick LeBeau, the Packers' defensive backfield coach, is the fourth ranking interceptor in pro football history with 62 catches.
2. c — Russ Letlow, a guard from the University of San Francisco, was the Packers' first draft choice in 1936.
3. d — A new NFL rule has the official coin tossed three minutes before the kickoff.
4. b — Kicker Bob Thomas led the Bears in scoring with 57 points.
5. a — Paul Lowe scored on an 87-yard run against Dallas on Sept. 10, 1961.
6. c — Gilliam, in case anyone missed it, will be running pass patterns for the Falcons.
7. a — Rick Casares, a Chicago Bear running back, had an 81-yard dash against Baltimore on October 16, 1955.
8. c — Andy Russell scored on a 93-yard fumble return.
9. a — Jim Mitchell, tight end, is Atlanta's career leader with 223 catches.
10. b — Lydell Mitchell paced the Colt receivers with 60 receptions.

We're always willing to share our Super-Quizzer space with our readers. If any of you think you might have a pro football question that will stump the other readers, send it in and we'll mention your name in here. Mail your prospective baffler to: Tim Sullivan c/o Superquizzers, 1555 Water Street, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481. Chances are that your question will be better than anything we can dig up. One never knows.

## Order A Gift Subscription To



Send it to a friend or relative or a Bear fan anywhere

each issue includes

- Complete Photo Coverage
- Top Pro Football Columnists
- Complete Game Coverage
- Doug Buffone's Column
- Players' Family Feature
- Team Rosters
- Complete NFL Schedule
- Scouting Reports

And gift subscriptions include this special card

*Gift Subscription*

A gift subscription to



has been purchased for you

by .....

ONLY \$9.95 for 26 Big Issues  
Order A Gift Subscription  
NOW —

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ subscription(s)  
to Doug Buffone's Bear Report:

1 season  26 weeks \$9.95 each

2 seasons  52 weeks \$19.95 each

Enclosed is  Check  Money Order for:

FROM:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

FOR:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

DOUG BUFFONE'S  
CHICAGO BEAR REPORT  
500 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 700  
Chicago, Illinois 60611



A hard opening session has this happy group leaving the Lake Forest practice field with 'a little something left.' From left to right: Johnny Musso, Craig Clemons, Walter Payton, and Mike Adamle.

All but Clemons, a safety, are Bear running backs.



Head coach Jack Pardee whistles some advice during a training camp drill.

## Training Camp '76

Photos by  
Bill Smith



Starting with the Basics — Helmets and pads were part of the basic equipment awaiting the Bear camp candidates when they arrived July 10.



A Bear assistant coach goes head on with tackle Lionel Antoine. The meeting was called a draw.



## Don Pierson

- A Bear Report Regular -

# Defensive Backfield Takes Shape

The Bears had a set of goals in 1975 which Coach Jack Pardee said "the good teams achieve." The Bears, who were 4-10, did not achieve them.

They came close in two areas. Pardee wanted 45 sacks. After being on schedule for most of the year, they ended up with 35.

Pardee wanted to hold the opponent to 3.4 yards per rush. It ended up 3.8 yards per rush.

"It showed we could rush the passer and stop the run," said Pardee. "What it comes down to is obvious, the bomb is what killed us."

### Livers Quick

Cornerback Virgil Livers, who gained some notoriety for running the 100-yard dash at Western Kentucky, practiced running 100 yards backwards during the winter.

Cornerback Allan Ellis, who already had better man-to-man techniques than any of the others, broke his thumb playing softball but played well enough with a cast on one hand to immediately catch Pardee's eye.

No other area on the team solidified as fast as the defensive backfield. It is both a good sign

"Sure, I'll tell a guy if I see something he's doing wrong, but I like to follow, too. I can learn from all of them. Plank has great hustle and attitude. Virgil has great concentration. Allan is one of the quickest and fastest in the league."

If there's a harder hitter on the team than Plank, it's Clemons, who doesn't think his loss of weight will weaken him.

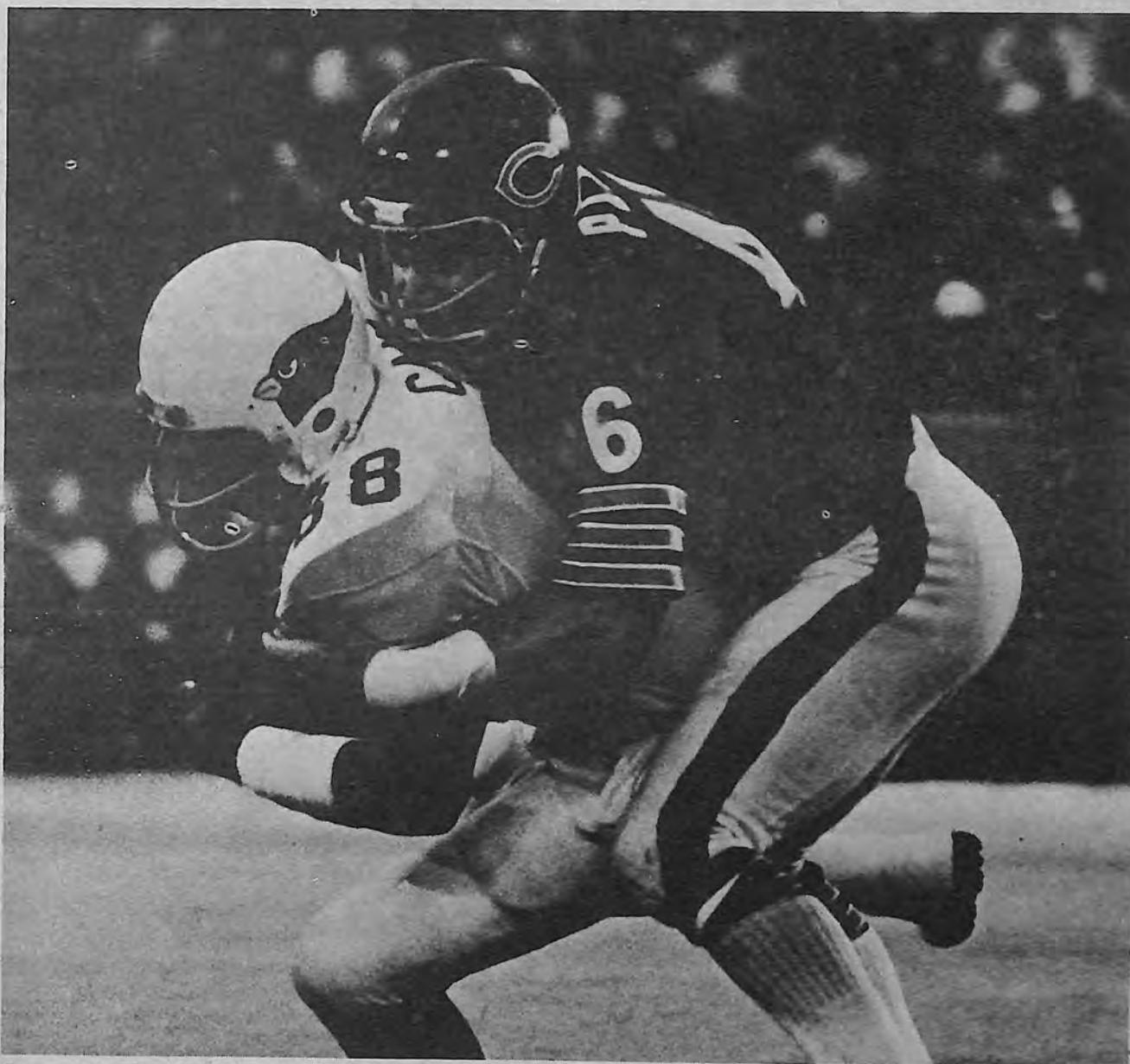
"Oh, no," he smiled. "That's my asset. Why work on your asset? My weakness is man-to-man defense, so I'm working on my back peddling, keeping low and my burst to the ball carrier. Do you see how everyone is covering on the first week of camp, though? I have a bruised toe and I'm wearing the next thing to tennis shoes and I'm not doing bad. Just think when I get cleats on."

### Size No Gauge

If the four end up as a unit, someone should sponsor a contest for a nickname — like the Mean Midgets. Livers is 5-8 1/2, Ellis 5-10, Clemons 5-11 and Plank 5-11 1/2. Knox, who has played the fifth back in prevent defenses, is 5-9.

"I wish they were all 6-3 but they aren't," says Pardee. "If you're a good defensive back it doesn't matter what size you are. When Pat Fischer (an All-Pro and former Pardee teammate) first came to this Lake Forest camp (with the St. Louis Cardinals) he wasn't any bigger than the ball boys. Experience makes up for lack of height."

Don Pierson is a sports writer for the Chicago Tribune.



Free safety Doug Plank puts the wraps on St. Louis wide receiver J.V. Cain during 1975 game action.

### Improvement

Pardee wanted to give up under 200 points. His team yielded 379.

"We have to improve the secondary," he said.

After only a week of training camp, it was obvious that the secondary improved itself.

Free safety Doug Plank, whose shoulders ached from hitting other bodies — sometimes teammates, beefed up with weights so much that a standard greeting at Lake Forest on opening day was: "Have you seen Plank!"

Strong safety Craig Clemons weighed 205 pounds a year ago and found he was too heavy to play Pardee's demanding man-to-man defense. He took off nearly 15 pounds and feels

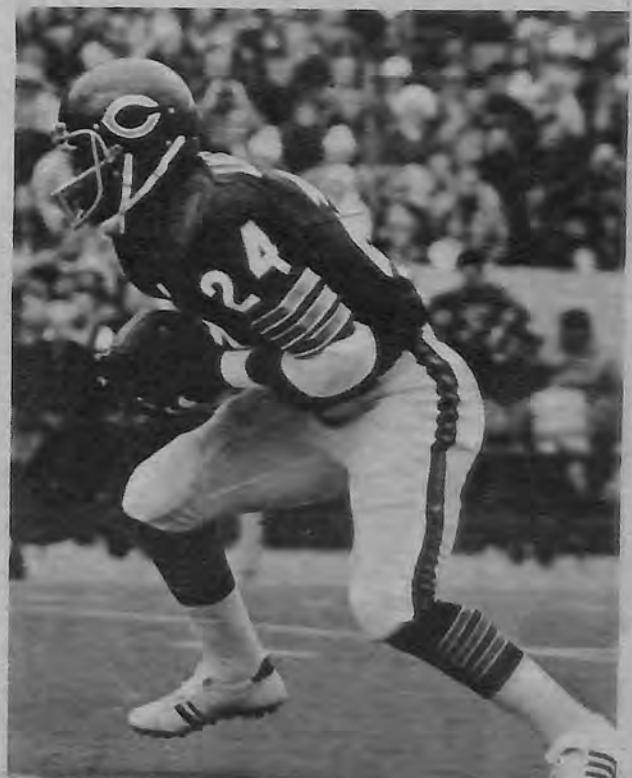
quicker and faster.

and a bad one. The four look good enough to play, but no one else is doing much pushing. Reliable Billy Knox is the only veteran in reserve.

Livers, displaying great quickness and reaction to compensate for his lack of size, had been the biggest question mark, but after two days, Defensive Backfield Coach Ross Fichtner said, "I don't think we could even trade for anyone who could beat him out."

### Clemons Can Lead

Clemons, the "old man" of the secondary at 27, talked about leadership:



Bear corner back Virgil Livers, one of the quickest players on the team, also doubles as a punt return specialist. (Photo by Bill Smith)

# NFL Pre-Season Schedule

(All Times P.M. Local)

**FIRST WEEKEND**

JULY:
23 Pittsburgh 24, All Stars 0
24 Denver 10, Detroit 7
31 Pittsburgh at N. Orleans, N. Orleans 8:00
31 Buffalo at Detroit, Pontiac, Mich. 4:00
31 Wash. at Atlanta, Atlanta 8:00
31 Tampa Bay at Los Angeles, L. A. 7:00
31 Minnesota at Miami, Miami 8:00
31 Cleveland vs. Balt., Lincoln, Neb. 2:00
31 Dallas at Oakland, Oakland 6:00
31 Philadelphia at San Diego, San Diego 8:00
31 N. Y. Jets at St. Louis, St. Louis 7:00
31 Chicago at Denver, Denver 8:00
31 Cincinnati at Green Bay, Green Bay 8:00

AUGUST:
1 San Francisco at Seattle, Seattle 1:00
1 N. Y. Giants at N. Engl., Foxboro, Mass. 8:00
2 Houston at Kansas City, Kansas City 7:30

**SECOND WEEKEND**

AUGUST:
6 Washington at Baltimore, Baltimore 8:00
6 San Diego vs. New England, Norman, Okla. 7:00
7 Dallas at Los Angeles, L. A. (CBS) 7:00
7 Buffalo at Cincinnati, Cincinnati 8:00
7 Minn. at Kansas City, Kansas City 7:30
7 St. Louis vs. Oakland, Phoenix 8:30
7 Cleveland vs. Atlanta, Stillwater, Okla. 3:00
7 New Orleans at Houston, Houston 8:00
7 Tampa Bay vs. G. B., Milw. 7:00
7 Chicago vs. Seattle, Spokane 7:00
8 Denver at San Francisco, San Fran. 1:00
8 Miami at Detroit, Pontiac, Mich. 1:00
9 Pitts. at Philadelphia, Philadelphia 8:00
9 N. Y. Giants at N. Y. Jets, Yankee Stad. 8:00

**THIRD WEEKEND**

AUGUST:
13 N. Orleans at Buffalo, Buffalo 7:30
13 Oakland at N. Y. Jets, Yankee Stadium 8:00
14 L. A. at Seattle, Seattle 7:30
14 Phil. at Miami, Miami 8:00
14 Pittsburgh at Wash., Wash. (NBC) 9:00
14 Detroit at Cincinnati 8:00
14 Denver at Dallas, Dallas 8:00
14 N. Y. Giants at Houston, Houston 8:00
14 Tampa Bay vs. Atlanta, Jacksonville, Fla. 8:00
14 Baltimore at Chicago, Chicago 8:00
15 Kansas City at San Fran., San Fran. 1:00
15 G. B. at New England, Foxboro, Mass. 8:00
16 Minn. at Cleveland, Cleveland 8:00
16 St. Louis vs. S. D., Tokyo, Japan 8:00

**FIFTH WEEKEND**

AUGUST:
28 Pittsburgh at Dallas, Dallas (ABC) 8:00
28 Wash. at N. Y. Jets, Yankee Stad. 8:00
28 Baltimore at Atlanta, Atlanta 8:00
28 Buffalo at L. A., L. A. 7:00
28 Miami at Houston, Houston 8:00
28 Chicago at Tampa Bay, Tampa 8:00
28 Detroit at Kansas City, Kansas City 7:30
28 N. Y. Giants at G. B., G. B. 8:00
28 Philadelphia at Minn., Minn. 8:00
28 Denver at St. Louis, St. Louis 7:00
28 Cincinnati at N. Orleans, N. Orleans 8:00
29 Oakland at San Fran., San Fran. (CBS) 12:30
29 San Diego at Seattle, Seattle 1:00
30 N. Engl. at Cleveland, Cleveland 8:00

**FOURTH WEEKEND**

AUGUST:
20 G. B. at Buffalo, Buffalo 7:30
20 N. Orleans at Baltimore, Baltimore 8:00
20 N. Y. Giants at Pitts., Pittsburgh (ABC) 8:00
21 N. Y. Jets at Houston, Houston 8:00
21 N. England at Atlanta, Atlanta 8:00
21 L. A. at Oakland, Oakland (NBC) 6:00
21 San Francisco vs. San Diego, Honolulu 8:00
21 St. Louis at Chicago, Chicago 8:00
21 Wash. at Kansas City, Kansas City 7:30
21 Seattle at Denver, Denver 8:00
21 Miami at Tampa Bay, Tampa 7:00
22 Cincinnati at Minn., Minnesota (CBS) 12:30
23 Cleveland at Phil., Phil. 8:00
Dallas vs. Detroit — Date and site to be announced

**SIXTH WEEKEND**

SEPTEMBER:
2 Baltimore at Detroit, Pontiac 8:00
3 Cleveland at Buffalo, Buffalo 7:30
3 Chicago at Washington, Wash. 8:00
3 Atlanta vs. Green Bay, Milw. 8:00
3 Kansas City at St. Louis, St. Louis 8:00
4 Miami at N. Orleans, N. Orleans 8:00
4 San Francisco at L. A., Los Angeles 7:00
4 N. Y. Jets at Pitts., Pittsburgh 8:00
4 Seattle at Oakland, Oakland 6:00
4 Houston at Dallas, Dallas (ABC) 8:00
4 N. Y. Giants at San Diego, San Diego 8:00
4 Cincinnati at Tampa Bay, Tampa 8:00
5 Minn. at Denver, Denver (NBC) 1:30
5 Philadelphia at N. Engl., Foxboro, Mass. 8:00

## YOUR BEARS ARE JUST A CLIP AWAY . . .

First down ... go Bears ... bring a friend ... Soldier Field ... Payton's at the 10 ... see Walter run ... cheer a touchdown ... have a laugh ... go Bears ... rookie Lick ... getting better ... interception by Clemons ... K.O. by Plank ... go Bears ... tackle by Buffone ... sack by Chambers ... chop a Colt ... cut a Cardinal ... lick the Lions ... flag a Falcon ... rack a Redskin ... Viking voodoo ... rip a Raider ... go Bears ... paste a Packer ... blast a Bronco ... cold pop ... hot dog ... red dog ... Huff's hot ... gamebreaker Shanklin ... catch by Rather ... Latta's open ... Avellini the arm ... go Bears ... bulldozer Harper ... burner ... 6 ... it's up, it's good ... bears win ... you win ... be there ... a clip away ...

### ORDER YOUR BEAR TICKETS BY MAIL TODAY ALL SEATS RESERVED AT \$8 AND \$6

\$8. \_\_\_\_\_

\$6. \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

- Aug. 14 — Baltimore vs Bears at 8 p.m.
- Aug. 21 — St. Louis vs Bears at 8 p.m.
- Sept. 12 — Detroit vs Bears at 1 p.m.
- Sept. 26 — Atlanta vs Bears at 1 p.m.
- Oct. 3 — Washington vs Bears at 1 p.m.
- Oct. 31 — Minnesota vs Bears at 1 p.m.
- Nov. 7 — Oakland vs Bears at 1 p.m.
- Nov. 14 — Green Bay vs Bears at 1 p.m.
- Dec. 12 — Denver vs Bears at 1 p.m.

SEND CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS TO:

Chicago Bear Box Office  
55 E. Jackson  
Suite 1250  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Chicago Bears Football Club, Inc.

ADD 50 CENTS FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING

SEND MY TICKETS TO:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

## Instant Replay

by Kevin Pates  
Bear Report Editor

Our first issue made it through presses on schedule last week, despite a few difficulties and we now welcome all our new subscribers to issue number two.

### Mail Delay

In our production process, the copy for each issue is mailed from Chicago to Sun Prairie, Wisconsin during the week prior to publication.

Unfortunately, some of the material mailed on July 12 was waylaid somewhere between the two towns and did not arrive until July 21, too late for our first issue.

### Sorry Fran

That caused us to hold out the first column of one of our regular writers, Fran Spielman. Her initial story was among the delayed mail.

Fran, a sports and news reporter for Chicago's WIND Radio, has her column included this week. We apologize to her and to our readers for the exclusion.

### Welcome Bruiser

Also in the Bear Report for the first time this week is a new comic feature — Little Bruiser. He'll be with us throughout the remaining 25 issues. His misadventures can be found at the bottom of page two. Welcome aboard Bruiser.

### Don in Montreal

Our next two issues will feature guest columnist Ed Stone of the Chicago Tribune. He'll be substituting for one of our regulars, Don Piereson, also from the Trib.

Don, who is also a track and field writer in addition to covering the Bears, is currently in Montreal for the Olympic Games. Although, he's there strictly as a fan.

### Headstart

If you've compared the 1976 Bears' schedule with that of a year ago, you may have noticed that the NFL begins play a week earlier (this Saturday) than in 1975.

The change was made in order to avoid having playoff games on Christmas Day. The AFC and NFC championships are now set for Sunday, December 26th.

### The Predictors

All of the football-oriented magazines are now coming out with their pre-season predictions on the outcome of the current NFL season.

The guesses as to which rookies will be first-year stars are also being published. The Bears' top two draft picks, tackle Dennis Lick (1) and wide receiver Brian Baschnagel (3) were both named to Playboy Magazine's top rookie list (of 27) by Anson Mount.

### Your Reactions

We again ask to hear from all of you charter subscribers to the Bear Report. What are your reactions to our publication? Would you like to see something which isn't being included?

What about the Bears for 1976? What about starting a fan club for your favorite Bear player? If you have views on anything concerning the Chicago Bears we'd like to read them.

Send any comments to: Bear Report Editor, 1948 North Lincoln, Chicago, Illinois 60614.

### Issues Remaining

Here is a tentative list of the remaining 24 issue dates for the Bear Report:

Aug. 5, Aug. 12, Aug. 19, Aug. 26, Sep. 2, Sep. 9, Sep. 16, Sep. 23, Sep. 30, Oct. 7, Oct. 14, Oct. 21, Oct. 28, Nov. 4, Nov. 11, Nov. 18, Nov. 25, Dec. 2, Dec. 9, Dec. 16, Dec. 30, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, May 12.

## Letters to the Editor

Bear Report welcomes all Letters to the Editor. Due to space limitations, it may be necessary to shorten letters to fill the space available. Bear Report does not necessarily agree with the views stated in letters we receive.

Letters to the Editor 1948 N. Lincoln Chicago, Ill. 60614



### DAD'S HAPPY

Dear Doug,

It is really hard to get information about the Bears out here in California, so I'm pleased to hear about your "Bear Report".

Enclosed are a couple of pictures taken last year at the Bears vs 49ers game here by the local newspaper photographer. You may keep them if you like — No. 71 is my son Roger.

Enclosed is my check for a year's subscription.

Sincerely,

Howard Stillwell  
Novato, California

(Editor's Note: Doug forwarded these photos to the office and we're very happy to show them here. We encourage photos as well as letters. Keep them coming. Ed.)



**HEAD ON . . .** The Bears' defensive line goes head-on with the San Francisco 49ers offensive line in last year's game on the coast, November 16. Doug Buffone (55) is at his left linebacking position . . . Next to him is defensive tackle (73) Mike Hartenstine.



**TALKING IT OVER . . .** It's number 55 again on the call. Last season Doug Buffone took over the duties of calling out the Bears' defensive formations. He'll handle the same chores in 1976. Other players are: (48) Allan Ellis, (45) Doug Plank, (73) Hartenstine and (71) Roger Stillwell.

## CAMP TRANSACTIONS

LAKE FOREST, ILL. — In addition to the retirement of right tackle Bob Asher on July 20, the Chicago Bears roster was reduced by four the same day when four other players were put on waivers.

Those waived were: Bill Marek (Wisconsin), Ron Cuie (Oregon St.), Eddie Moss (Southeast Missouri St.) — all running backs — and safety Joe Larkin.

Marek and Cuie were rookies. Moss was obtained in a conditional trade with the St. Louis Cardinals during the off season. Larkin was a free agent, who had trials with the Los Angeles Rams and teams in the CFL and WFL.

The Bears now have 67 players on their roster.

Bob Asher (QT)	6-6	258	Vanderbilt	July 20 - Retired
Ron Cuie (RB)	6-1	199	Oregon St.	July 20 - Waivers
Joe Larkin (S)	5-11	195	Boise St.	July 20 - Waivers
Bill Marek (RB)	5-8	188	Wisconsin	July 20 - Waivers
Eddie Moss (RB)	6-0	215	SE Missouri	July 20 - Waivers



# INTRODUCING A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL!!

**26 BIG ISSUES**  
*mailed directly  
to your door*



Subscribe Now- Only \$ **9.95**

**FOLLOW THE BEAR ACTION  
WITH THESE SPECIAL WEEKLY FEATURES**

- Complete Photo Coverage
- Top Pro Football Columnists
- Complete Game Coverage

- Doug Buffone's Column
- Complete NFL Schedule

- Scouting Reports
- Players' Family Feature
- Team Rosters



500 NORTH MICHIGAN AVE., SUITE 700  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611  
PHONE 1-312-787-6955



500 NORTH MICHIGAN AVE., SUITE 700  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611  
PHONE 1-312-787-6955

MR. MRS. MISS  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

enclosed is a  check,  money order for:

1 Season  26 Weeks \$9.95

2 Seasons  52 Weeks \$19.90

MR. MRS. MISS  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

enclosed is a  check,  money order for:

1 Season  26 Weeks \$9.95

2 Seasons  52 Weeks \$19.90